electronics, agriculture and leather sector expertise;

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted the proposal;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether they have also offerted re-export facilities for their items; and

(e) whether their offer for rice much cheaper than that of other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

Setting up of Export Development Fund

716. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SMT. VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an Export Development Fund for small Scale Industries; and

(b) if so, the precise constitution, corpus and objects of the fund and its modus operandi?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No proposal to set up an Export Development Fund for the small scale Industries has been formulated.

(b) Does. not arise.

Proposals for US Investments and Collaboration

717. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SMT. VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large delegation of US business executives led by 'Overseas Private Investment Corporation' visited India towards the end of January 1993; and

(b) if so, what proposals for US investments and collaboration were discussed / finalised during the visit, indicating specifically the areas of industries and the volume of US investment/collaborations contemplated thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. No specific proposal for US investments and collaboration was discussed/finanlised.

Trade with Neighbouring Countries

718. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of imports and exports with Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Srilanka and Pakistan during the last three years;

(b) what steps are being taken to augment the border trade with these countries; and

(c) the exchange rate of the rupee with the currencies of these countries during the said three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The quantum of import and export with Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan during the last three years is given below: